

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SAM-01 SCCT-01 A-01 OPR-02

SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 CU-02 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /094 W

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O R 211540Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4961

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF PINS

SUBJ: SCATTERED DEMONSTRATIONS IN TRANSVAAL

REF: PRETORIA 3193

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. JULY 21 PRESS REPORTED DEMONSTRATION IN MIDDELBURG'S
MHLUZI TOWNSHIP BY 150 STUDENTS DEMANDING RELEASE OF
DETAINED SOWETO SCHOOL CHILDREN. ACCORDING TO PRESS,
STUDENTS LATER STONED LOCAL CLINIC, BANTU ADMINISTRATION
BOARD OFFICE AND POLICE OFFICE. BUS ALLEGEDLY SET ALIGHT.
REPORTS ALSO STATED THAT OBJECTS, PRIMARILY MILK BOTTLES
FROM LOCAL TRUCK, WERE THROWN AT PASSING CARS. UNPOPULAR

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF BANTU EDUCATION IN SOUTHERN

TRANSVALL W. C. ACKERMAN ATTEMPTED TO CALM CROWD AND WAS FORCED TO FLEE BY CAR. PLICE USED TEARGAS AND GUNS TO CONTROL GATHERING; ONE 16-YEAR YOUTH WOUNDED BY WARNING SHOT.

2. PRESS ALSO REPORTED VIOLENCE IN WITBANK'S LYNVILLE TOWNSHIP. POLICE ALLEGEDLY USED TEARGAS TO CONTROL REPORTED RIOTING AND LOOTING NEAR BEER DEPOT. REPORTS STATE THAT VEHICLES WERE STONED, A TRUCK SET ABLAZE, AND ONE LOCAL OFFICIAL CLAIMED SOME STORES WERE BURNING. POLICE SET UP SECURITY CORDON AND PROHIBITED ACCESS TO TOWNSHIP BY PRESS.

3. IN NEIGHBORING HENDRINA (33 KMS. SE OF MIDDELBURG), THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE AND STOREROOM OF THE UNITED AFRICAN SCHOOL WERE BURNT DURING THE NIGHT OF JULY 19. STUDENTS WERE SENT HOME JULY 20.

4. ALSO DURING NIGHT OF JULY 19, ARSON ATTEMPT REPORTED IN TIGANE AFRICAN SCHOOL AT HARTBEESFONTEIN, NEAR KLERKSDORP (TRANSVAAL). POLICE ARE STILL INVESTIGATING AND NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE. IN ADDITION, TWO CLASSROOMS WERE DAMAGED IN A FIRE AT A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MOHLAKENG TOWNSHIP NEAR RANDFONTEIN DURING EVENING JULY 19.

5. AFTERNOON JULY 21 PRESS REPORTED TWO DEATHS AND "SCORES INJURED" IN WITBANK/MIDDELBURG AND KHUTSONG (NEAR CARLETONVILLE) OUTBREAKS. JOHANNESBURG STAR CLAIMED AT LEAST EIGHT WHITES INJURED WHEN CARS STONED ON PRETORIA-WITBANK HIGHWAY. STAR ALSO REPORTED ATTEMPTED ARSON AT SCHOOL LOCATED IN WESTERN TRANSVAAL HAMLET OF COLIGNY.
END UNCLASSIFIED

6. COMMENT: DISORDERS JULY 19 AND 20 IN SCATTERED LOCATIONS PROBABLY LINKED WITH REPORTED PLANS FOR SCHOOL BOYCOTT AND GENERAL STRIKE IN SOWETO CALLING FOR RELEASE OF THOSE DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH EARLIER RIOTS. SOWETO AND OTHER MAJOR URBAN AREAS REMAINED QUIET, HOWEVER, AND NO GENERAL STRIKE DEVELOPED. TRANSVAAL OUTBURSTS SUGGEST THAT THERE WAS SOME ORGANIZED PREPARATION INTENDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO INSURE THAT DISORDERS WOULD OCCUR NOT ONLY IN SOWETO BUT IN OUTLYING AREAS AS WELL. NO MAJOR DISRUPTIONS OCCURRED, HOWEVER, AND THOSE PARTICIPATING SEEM TO HAVE BEEN PRINCIPALLY STUDENTS.
BOWDLER

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